

From: Peter Lewandowski
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 4:16pm
Subject: I thought this was a monopoly investigation?

If Microsoft is a monopoly the main task should be to stop Microsoft from being a monopoly, if they are not then just leave them alone. If you go to McDonalds are they not allowed to sell Pepsi products, or Taco Bell sell Coke? Even if it's a franchise most are required by the agreement to sell one or the other product not both. Now I'm not a big Microsoft fan nor do I like Bill Gates, but if Bill made America believe that they have the only operating system good for him. I personally need to use it in business and it's a corporate directive. I would rather use something like LINUX but unfortunately there is little useful business software for it and we do not have the staff to support both LINUX and Microsoft.

I have an idea that the Justice Department seemed to overlook. Don't break Microsoft up but rather make them liable for security violations that "known issues" and the cost related to businesses that have a violation. Have a "Lemon Law" for bad software. Currently if a software company has a known bug that disrupts business, or forces a business to pay a fine, they don't get charge for that. Think about it this way, if you bought a car and the brakes didn't work wouldn't you sue the manufacturer for a defective product? Why don't software companies get held to that level of liability? If Microsoft had to reimburse companies for each worker's hours who had to restart their computer because Microsoft's software was written so badly they would be a very, very small software company fast and have a very small user installed base.

My two cents,

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